

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08655 262140Z

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ACTION OES-05

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TO NSF POLAR WASHDC PRIORITY

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UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8655

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, XV, AR, US

SUBJ: ISLAS ORCADAS

FOR PRICE LEWIS

1. ISLAS ORCADAS SAILED FOR SHAKEDOWN AT 1030 AM SUNDAY NOV. 24. CRUISE CONSISTED OF SLOW TRANSIT SHIP CHANNEL INTO PLATE ESTUARY FOLLOWED BY ALTERNATE ANCHORING AND ENGINE TESTING. MAIN ENGINES REACHED FULL POWER SUCCESSFULLY AT MIDDAY NOVEMBER 25. AUXILIARY POWER DIESEL GENERATOR NUMBER TWO DEVELOPED CRACKED HEAD ASSEMBLY AT THE INJECTOR FITTING AND WILL NOT BE REPAIRED UNTIL NOV. 30. THE OTHER TWO DIESEL GENERATORS OPERATED NORMALLY. MAINTENANCE OF CONSTANT AUXILIARY VOLTAGE AND FREQUENCY NOT UP ITS U.S. STANDARDS BUT OPERATING PERSONNEL SHOWED SIGNS OF IMPROVING AS CRUISE PROGRESSED. ONE OF TWO SHIPS HOTWATER BOILERS WERE OPERATING. NEITHER OF SHIPS TWO EVAPORATORS WERE OPERATING HOWEVER DUE TO SIMPLICITY OF THIS EQUIPMENT, ANTICIPATE CLEANING REASSEMBLY AND OPERATION WILL POSE NO PROBLEMS. ORCADAS IS QUITE DIRTY BELOW DECKS ALTHOUGH CONSIDERABLE TOPSIDE CHIPPING AND PAINTING MAKES A GOOD OUTWARD IMPRESSION. SHIP BOATS AND SOME FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT WERE TESTED.

2. CRUISING AREA WAS RESTRICTED TO THE MUDDY AND SHALLOW WATER OF THE ESTUARY. CAPTAIN SEEMED RELUCTANT TO GO VERY FAR TO THE EAST OF CHANNEL ENTRANCE UNTIL MAIN ENGINES WERE PROVED. BY
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08655 262140Z

THIS TIME AUXILIARY GENERATOR NO. 2 HAD DEVELOPED CRACK SO

NAVY DECISION WAS TO ENTER PORT ONE DAY AHEAD OF SCHEDULE.
ACCORDINGLY ORCADAS ENTERED PORT AT 1300 LOCAL NOVEMBER 26.

3. AT 1700 NOVEMBER 25 DR. KILHO PARK HELD MEETING WITH SHIPS
C. O. AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ANTARCTIC AND HYDROGRAPHIC INST-
ITUTE IN WHICH HE GAVE DETAILS OF F-DRAKE AND THEN ADVISED ALL
ASSEMBLED THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND WITHDRAWAL OF U.S.
PARTICIPATION BY DECEMBER 10 UNLESS A SUCCESSFUL SCIENTIFIC
SHAKEDOWN TOOK PLACE 1-5 DEC. DR. PARK ORIGINATING SEPARATE
CABLE CONTAINING THESE COMMENTS.

4. PLAN FOR TOMORROW IS TO WORK WITH NAVY, HYDROGRAPHIC AND
ANTARCTIC INSTITUTE PEOPLE AT WHICH TIME I WILL PRESENT THE
CRUISE PLAN AS DISCUSSED AFTERNOON 26 NOVEMBER WITH LEWIS AND
LLANO AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE FIRM
INFORMATION ON ACCEPTANCE BY NOON 27 NOVEMBER. ALBERT BETZEL
SENDS.
MONTLLOR

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